

# GROUNDCOVER

NEWS AND SOLUTIONS FROM THE GROUND UP

JULY 2014 VOLUME 5 ISSUE 7

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## Knowing what we're getting: vetting candidates ourselves



by Susan Beckett  
Publisher

As the election season approaches, candidates are refining their platforms and getting messages out to voters they think will resonate with them. Our job as citizens is ferreting out their positions on the host of other issues that we care about.

You might wonder how to do so. Visiting candidates' websites provides an overview of their positions on issues and probably a link to their Facebook pages. Doing an online search will also turn up articles that have been written about them.

To get answers to other questions that matter to you, you will likely need to

### GROUNDCOVER MISSION:

*Creating opportunity and a voice  
for low-income people while tak-  
ing action to end homelessness and  
poverty.*

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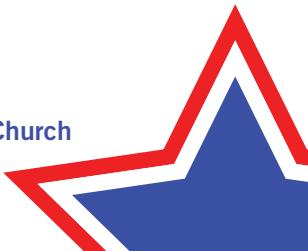
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### ANN ARBOR MAYORAL CANDIDATE FORUM ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS

Come hear your candidates for Mayor discuss one of the most vexing and important challenges in our community today. Candidates will answer questions provided by local congregations and service organizations. In addition, there will be a time for questions from the audience, followed by time to mingle and greet all four of the candidates.

Tuesday July 15, 2014  
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.  
Temple Beth Emeth & St. Clare of Assisi Episcopal Church  
2309 Packard Rd, Ann Arbor



see them in person. Public appearances might be listed on social media, and if not, contacting them and asking for a schedule will usually work.

Candidate forums, debates, and Meet-and-Greets – informal individual or group meetings often held in area coffee shops – provide opportunities to hear what candidates have to say on a wide variety of issues. Groundcover reporters will do their best to attend these events in our community, interview candidates, and report on them in upcoming issues of Groundcover.

One thing we at Groundcover would like to know from our federal and state representatives is their positions on the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the Child Tax Credit (CTC). These tax credits do more than any other programs, besides Social Security, to lift working people and families out of poverty, yet they were slashed by the State of Michigan. The federal tax credits were expanded as part of the stimulus package during the recession, but those improvements will expire in 2017. Stimulus tax credit expansions for corporations – to the tune of \$759 billion over 10 years – were recently

made permanent by House of Representatives, but the improvements to the EITC and CTC, whose combined cost is less than one-fifth of the corporate credits, are still set to expire in 2017.

From politicians at all levels, we would also like to know what actions they will take to address the shortage of affordable housing in Washtenaw County, as the Ann Arbor City Council recently did when they voted last month to contribute all \$1.4 million of the proceeds from the sale of the old Ann Arbor Y lot to the affordable housing fund.

Locally, we'd like to know how the potential mayors and city council representatives would address the potential rebuilding and subsequent use of Liberty Park, where the Vineyard Church ministry hosts a Friday night pizza party for the low-income community. Do they favor rezoning the Stone School lot purchased by MISSION to allow a community of tiny homes? Is there a place for more affordable housing in the redevelopment plans in Ypsilanti?

Let us know if you have questions you would like us to ask on behalf of the community. You'll find a place to ask and respond to such questions on our Groundcover Facebook page. We look forward to hearing from you!

## Not in my parking lot

by Elizabeth S. Kurtz, aka "Lit"  
Groundcover Vendor #159

Recently in London, England, an apartment complex found it necessary to place spikes in its parking lot to prevent homeless people from sleeping there. This action angered people worldwide and led a human rights group to dress up as construction workers and sneak in during the night to pour cement over the spikes.

London is not alone in the measures groups and individuals take to keep homeless individuals away from their properties. Many of the public places where people gather have received time and energy from communities concerned about how to eliminate this group of people from their daily lives. Public bus stops have dividers on benches to prevent people from sleeping on them. Portable toilets have locks installed to prevent anyone using them after hours. A local grocery store took away its seating area after several people used it for sleeping overnight. Some businesses leave their lights on overnight to deter anyone from sleeping in their spaces.

The list of steps that have been taken

by individuals, businesses, and governments is clear. What is not clear, unfortunately, are the measures these same people have taken to alleviate the problems that create homelessness. If the energy that is taken to bar people was used to help, it might possibly begin to erode the problem of homelessness. Rather than treating these vulnerable citizens like nuisances to be avoided at all costs, it would seem wise to invest time and money into finding solutions. Unfortunately, countless business and individuals instead accuse people of laziness and blame them for their own plights.

As long as the basic rights of food, clothing, and shelter are unmet, people will continue to find places for rest and shelter which may be inconvenient for others. Leaving on lights, turning up air conditioners to freeze people out, installing dividers on benches, and least of all, sticking spikes in parking lots, will not stop peoples' quest to fulfill their basic human needs.

The sooner we accept this truth, the sooner we will move towards ending homelessness.

### YPSILANTI MAYORAL CANDIDATE DEBATE

A candidates' forum will be held at the Downtown Ypsilanti Library moderated by local historian and author Laura Bien. All three candidates for the Democratic nomination for mayor in the August 5 primary have agreed to attend. (No Republicans are running.)

Monday, July 21

7:00 p.m.

Ypsilanti Downtown Library  
229 West Michigan Avenue



## Giving everything we've got



by Rev. Dr. Martha  
Brunell  
Groundcover  
Contributor

We who live in the middle of the country are used to being referred to, not so positively, as the fly-over states. We are the distance some people put up with to get across the country, often from one coast to the other.

A critically important aspect of our location is that we are the fly-over zone for the major, annual monarch butterfly migration from Mexico to Canada and back again.

That beautiful long distance trip is shrouded in mystery. Scientists aren't sure how butterflies – several generations younger than the one that made the prior migration – know the return route north or south. That beautiful long-distance trip is greatly threatened, too. There has been a dramatic loss of habitat, particularly milkweed-rich habitat, where butterflies lay their eggs, eat, and rest while traveling. That loss is threatening the very existence of this vast migration. Last fall I saw only a single monarch in my yard.

Responding to this reality, my faith community is establishing a monarch waystation on the west side of my house. Our dream is that the Mayfield



Monarch Waystation will become the seed project for waystation plantings on public lands and in people's gardens across the county. Our original design was a pretty linear affair: an L-shaped wrap around two sides of the yard, abutting the neighboring fields. Fortunately, more draft designs followed. What we have chosen is a beautiful spiral shape surrounding the large fire pit in the yard.

The first step in the project was to put down great sheets of heavyweight black plastic over the design. This step was delayed for weeks by our recent harsh winter and the frozen ground the reoccurring polar vortex left behind.

We hope the plastic will provide an organic alternative to massive amounts of chemicals for the elimination of invasive material growing where the waystation will be. I wondered ahead of time what it would be like to stare much of the summer at the beautiful ground behind my home shrouded in black plastic. It turns out, the design is so striking that even black plastic looks okay as a promise of what's to come.

The largest challenge so far in our waystation development is keeping the plastic anchored on the ground. Prairie winds are intense and frequent. Each time the wind twists and repositions portions of plastic where they aren't

supposed to be, we weigh the plastic down even more. There are well over a hundred bricks on it, many heavy pieces of wood from the outdoor woodpile, lawn furniture turned upside down, and an old bench. Yesterday I overturned a heavy-duty wheelbarrow on the plastic that seems most vulnerable to wind. I looked around the yard then and realized there's nothing else there to weigh the plastic down. With the addition of the wheelbarrow, everything we've got has been pressed into service.

Big projects, critical issues, game-shifting strategies are like that. They require everything, with no promise our efforts will ultimately succeed. The window of opportunity to reestablish necessary vegetation for the Midwestern monarch migration is narrow. We don't have much time. Will it work? We're not sure.

It reminds me of the Groundcover News effort and other papers like it around the country and globe. It's an uphill climb everywhere to give our all to turn around homelessness and marginal shelter for neighbors near and far. There's never complete certainty accompanying our attempts to change this situation. But we can't fail to do it, offering everything we possibly can. In the end, we're only responsible for the next right step. Then we look for the one that will follow it, together giving as fully as we can, in the unfolding journey.

## Vendor downed by seizure thanks rescuer

by Miriam Lindsay  
Groundcover Vendor #6

Please forgive me for not being timelier in writing this article for our own Groundcover News. I wanted to write it for the May edition but I am just now getting back all of my memory.

My dog Roscoe and I had been in downtown Ann Arbor since 11:30 a.m. on Friday, May 2, 2014 selling Groundcover News at the corner of William and Main. The Vineyard Church outreach ministry gives out free pizza every Friday at 7 p.m. at Liberty Park and I was hungry. So I packed up Roscoe along with my things and then started walking to Liberty Park at 6:45 p.m.

I did get across Main Street, but Roscoe and I never made it to the park because I went into a grand mal seizure.

Our Lord Savior is such a great God. I would love to know who called the ambulance and got help for me. I would truly like to thank whomever that person is.



cell phone and all the donations I earned that day were still on my person.

Again, I just want to thank the person who was there in my time of need.

My dog, Roscoe, was able to go with me in the ambulance and stay with me in my room during my stay in the University of Michigan Hospital. When it came time to leave the hospital emergency room, I was complimented on what a good dog I have.

I truly believe there are angels all around. I did not get one bruise or cut on my body. My

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## Elections have consequences: Eric Cantor's Congressional loss

by Martin Stolzenberg  
Groundcover Contributor

In 2009 when the newly elected President, Barack Obama, met with Congressional leaders on day-three of his term in office, he and Eric Cantor, then the House Minority Whip, didn't hit it off. According to the *Bluegrass Pundit* of October 30, 2010, it started with Cantor pushing for business tax cuts. The President resisted and sought to make it clear to the Congressman that his election, plus control of the House and the Senate by a majority, indicated he had a mandate from the people.

Obama rebuked Cantor with the now famous line, "Elections have consequences, and at the end of the day, I won." This has been used before by others, but particularly became associated with this encounter.

Now, five years later, Congressmen Cantor must have found those words ringing in his ears again. This time it hurt even more. The consequence to him of the primary election in Virginia's 7<sup>th</sup> District on the night of June 10, 2014 is: Cantor lost his job to a largely unknown Tea Party opponent, David Brat, a teacher of Third World Economics at Mason Randolph College where Cantor has also spread some words of wisdom. This is the first time in the history of our country that a sitting House Majority Leader lost a primary election.

It is as if the earth started to shift as a result of this election. This occurred in a fairly obscure district, in the Virginia countryside. It stretches from the west-end of Richmond and its suburbs and northward.

There are two consequences of Cantor's loss that are of great importance to the American people. The first is, it's no coincidence that the stock of Boeing, the largest airplane manufacturer in the country, declined to a new low for the year, the day after Cantor's defeat. Also, major bank stocks took a nose-dive that day.

Why did these things happen?

According to Ed O'Keefe of the Washington Post, it is because, "the Majority Leader has more power than the Speaker of the House determining which bills come to the floor and when the House will be in session that makes him so powerful. He has become a kind of chief executive of the House. The Majority Leader also plays a key role in setting the party's legislative agenda."

Let's see why they all got so jittery when



Eric Cantor lost his primary to a virtual unknown in Virginia's 7th Congressional District, despite outspending his opponent's \$200,000, with a war chest of more than \$5.7 million.

Cantor lost his job:

- It turns out that the Export-Import (E-I) Bank bill is up for grabs. This is important to companies like Boeing and General Dynamics, as well as hundreds of smaller companies, because they rely on government-subsidized loans to foreign companies and loan money here to manufacturing companies. Conservative Republicans are talking about eliminating the E-I Bank. Boeing, and the others, were relying on Cantor to block any such bill to stop funding the Bank from reaching the floor.
- Then there is the financial industry. The Majority Leader had already stopped a provision in 2012 that required hedge funds to disclose more about how they gather intelligence.
- He also battled conservatives to extend the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act, which helped the banks recover losses from the September 11 attack.
- Big business literally showered his campaign with money, especially in recent years. Over the 2004-2014 election cycles, Cantor spent as much as four times as much as the average House member candidate.
- These people largely bestowed Representative Cantor with over \$5.4 million in the latest campaign. This dwarfed the spending of the Brat campaign, which raised about \$200,000.
- Cantor got the support of 377 political action committees representing almost every major corporation and special interest group. (Source: *Politico*, June 14, 2014)
- Shipping and telecommunications leaders raised \$800,000 at a fund-

raiser the week before the election, according to *Politico*.

According to the current campaign expenditure laws, courtesy of the Supreme Court and *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*, there is nothing wrong with giving all this money to a candidate. You could say that the business people were giving this money to "assure access" to Representative Cantor, but that is sure a lot of access.

With all the money behind him and his acknowledged power, it's a head-shaker on how he lost the election. All of the

polls showed Cantor way ahead.

However, they all failed to notice one thing. The folks in the 7<sup>th</sup> District of Virginia are very conservative, and Cantor kept running on a platform of social conservatism: no abortions, repeal the Affordable Care Act, no same-sex marriages, cutting spending for the needy, no amnesty for the illegal immigrants and the like, as noted in the *Bacon's Rebellion* blog of June 11, 2014.

It seems like in 2012, people in the District began to notice he wasn't paying much attention to these social issues any more. He was increasingly busy running around courting the big money. He even began to talk about being in favor of some kind of immigration bill that many of the businessmen favored as being good for the economy. That was going too far in this ultra-conservative milieu.

Candidate Brat hopped onto this one like a drowning man going after a life preserver. With his limited budget and adroit use of the social media, he hammered away at the Majority Leader incessantly on the immigration issue as well, labeling Cantor as part of "the big money and Republican establishment."

see CANTOR'S LOSS, page 11



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## Cultural norms propelled Elliot Rodger shooting spree

by Keagan Irrer  
Groundcover Contributor

*(Publisher's note: readers might find some shocking statements in the following piece but we urge you to continue reading with an open mind.)*

I don't normally comment on shootings. I don't even have much of a reaction to them most of the time; yes, it's sad – all sympathy to the victims and their families – but there's not really anything that I personally can do other than mutter to myself about gun laws and move on.

In the case of Elliot Rodger, though, I felt compelled to say something because of the circumstances. He and I have something in common – Asperger's syndrome (AS). For those of you who don't know, Asperger's is an autism spectrum disorder. I don't generally complain about it because I have a relatively mild form of it, and honestly it gives as much as it takes if you know how to handle it.

It does make certain things in life difficult, though. Making and keeping friends and talking to people, especially people one doesn't know that well, is quite hard for people with AS. Talking to members of the opposite sex is doubly difficult, and romantic relationships can be very hard to come by. Myself, I had my first legal drink before my first kiss; I only had a couple friends (mostly male) throughout high school and college, and barely even talked to girls. For a while, it seemed like the opposite sex was mostly ignoring me. I was ready to give up on sex and romance – like Elliot.

Eventually, though, I came to the realization that I was ignoring them as much as they were ignoring me. I wasn't approaching them or putting myself out there; as noted above, this can be extremely difficult for people with AS, but it is possible. Technology helps; approaching people and communicating with them online is much easier for me than doing it in person. And when you make new friends, if you want to expand your circle even further, you ask to be introduced to their friends, and so on and so forth. Who knows, if you keep doing it you might even find someone of the opposite sex with whom you are romantically compatible.

However, there is no guarantee of this. People aren't entitled to relationships or sex; if you meet someone you like that way who likes you back, then great, but you're not entitled to it. I point this out because our culture teaches young

men and boys that they *are* entitled to women and their bodies. Especially if you're a "nice guy," you're supposed to get rewarded with girls. That's how it works. You put your "nice guy" certificate in the machine and it spits out a woman for you, ready and willing to be your slave and tell you what a great guy you are all the time.

And if you're not a nice guy, then hey, just take what you want. Go ahead, rape a woman and have a 97% chance of getting away with it scot free, according to the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network, the nation's largest anti-sexual assault organization. Because of the nature of rape, it's extremely difficult to prove – it's a crime that almost never has witnesses, and devolves into a he-said she-said, and we can't treat accusation as proof, so it's very difficult to give rape victims justice. So I believe a lot of men can and do get away with rape the overwhelming majority of the time.

It's that mentality of entitlement that was behind this shooting, and is often behind the crime of rape. Elliot Rodger thought of himself as a "nice guy" and a gentleman, but in reality he was no better than a rapist. He just chose to express violence by other means, but he had the same mentality of entitlement that so many rapists have.

This entitlement is a cancer on gender relations in this country. As long as a significant number of men carry it with them, women have to watch out for these men, and wonder if each new man she meets is one of them. This creates a poisonous climate of fear for women with respect to men; I wouldn't blame a woman if she was afraid of every new man she met, at least at first. It's bad for women, obviously, but it's bad for men, too, if women have to be afraid of us. I've talked to girls who have faced assault, harassment, and violence from men – as far as I can tell, it's something that all women will experience in their lives in one form or another.

It's easy for men to forget this. Particularly straight, middle class, white American males like me – I'm about as protected and privileged as it gets. I've seen an outpouring of sentiment against Elliot's sense of entitlement, yes, but I've also seen his supporters – like-minded people of the sort that he probably talked to online; people who also believe that they're entitled to women but are ignored by them.

I'm not the only one to comment on Elliot's misogyny and sense of entitlement. But I want to add that, for any young men who feel that they are being

ignored by the opposite sex, it's not them – it's you. Work on improving yourself. Shape yourself into the kind of person that other people will want to spend time with. Put yourself out there, terrifying as it can be sometimes.

According to the news reports I read, Elliot spent most of his time playing video games, as did I for much of college. Which is fine if that's what makes you happy, but clearly it was unfulfilling for him, as it was for me. In which case, it's up to you to make a change. And that change might not be as far away as you might think – one of Elliot's favorite games was World of Warcraft, and I've known and heard of several people who have met friends and significant others through the game's chat feature.

I've experienced some of the same things Elliot did, some of the same feelings. I grew up in the same culture that taught me I was entitled to women and with the AS that crippled my ability to interact with them. However, I chose a different path, obviously. I chose to ignore what culture taught me and to find ways around my disorder. This is not to

be self-congratulatory – I don't feel like I deserve a pat on the back simply for not being a mass murderer – but rather to point out that Elliot was not nearly as far from leading a normal, happy life as he seemed to think.

I understand the thoughts, experiences, and circumstances that led to Elliot's actions, but they do not excuse what he did. Murder and hatred are never the answer, and I regret that he made that choice. But it's important to remember that he did not act alone, that he had and still has his supporters. Elliot is gone, but he was merely a symptom, while the disease rages on. We have two choices: we either can chalk this up to the isolated actions of a madman, and pray that it doesn't happen again, or we can take steps to address the culture that led him down that path. He chose the path he did, and I'm not excusing him from his actions as an individual – but we have to recognize that the path was cleared and laid out for him by our culture. All he had to do was walk down it, and unless we do something about it, others will follow him.



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# AGENCY SPOTLIGHT

## Ann Arbor Rotary Club: changing lives, inside and out

by Sue Budin  
Groundcover Contributor

When I was invited to the Ann Arbor Rotary Club's weekly lunch at the Michigan Union, I didn't know what to expect. My familiarity with the organization was minimal, limited to reading about scholarships they gave to high school students. I had no idea that Rotarians number over a million worldwide and that this chapter, the largest of the three local ones, has 325 members. There were at least a hundred people at the luncheon, all engaged in animated conversations about projects they were involved in, both on local and international levels.

Rotary was started by a Chicago attorney, Paul P. Harris, in his office in downtown Chicago in February, 1905. He invited three other professional men and, together, they created the first Rotary Club, its name based on the practice of rotating meeting venues. By 1925, the organization had grown to more than 2,000 clubs and an estimated 108,000 members on six continents. The "Four Way Test" is their ethical guide for personal and professional relationships:

*Of the things we think, say or do*

*Is it the TRUTH?*

*Is it FAIR to all concerned?*

*Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?*

*Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?*

Maurita Holland, current president of Ann Arbor Rotary, encapsulates their vision: "We are one globe, one earth. We need to be concerned about each other here and around the world."

One way Rotary does this is by forging partnerships and combining funds with other agencies – as in their joining with Rotary International, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and other organizations, in their successful efforts to eradicate polio worldwide. The world is now 99 percent polio-free.

The Ann Arbor chapter's focus is on helping youth. Junior Rotarians are high school students who attend weekly meetings and engage with Rotarians about their future career goals. Interact Clubs at Pioneer and Huron engage students in community service projects with Rotary support.

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[WWW.GroundcoverNews.org](http://WWW.GroundcoverNews.org)  

Rotary Youth Exchange is a program available to high school students that gives them the opportunity to live and study in a foreign country. Families can also apply to be hosts to foreign students.

A youth program that Ann Arbor Rotary is especially proud of is STRIVE, an acronym for "Students Taking Renewed Interest in the Value of Education." In this joint program with Ann Arbor Tech High School (formerly Stone School) and Washtenaw Community College, Rotary members mentor students, encouraging them to finish high school. Deserving graduates apply for scholarships to Washtenaw, which are paid for by Rotary. The program has been incredibly successful. Dylan Farr, a 2009 high school graduate, went to WCC and, despite a diagnosis of multiple sclerosis, continued to take college classes and had a weekly radio show on the college station.

Rotoractors in this area are university students from the University of Michigan. This Rotary-sponsored international service club is for young professionals between the ages of 18 and 30 who are active in local and international service projects. This year, students and a local non-profit helped renovate a middle school in Nicaragua, creating more space for the 600 students who attend. Last year, their project was in Guatemala, where they worked on improving the drinking water.

Another project focused on youth is their tutoring programs at local elementary schools, which is a win-win for tutor and student. Ms. Holland believes, as do members, that when you "engage Rotary, you change lives."

This is true for both giver and receiver.

Other Ann Arbor Rotary projects done



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## Humor, instruction, creativity, socializing at Paint and Pour

by Jess J. Salisbury  
Groundcover Contributor

Call it art class with a touch of sass. Ann Arbor's Paint and Pour made quite the entrance during last year's Ann Arbor Street Art Fair.

"We came here last year; we wanted to do something special for the community and for the art fair," artist and Paint and Pour co-owner Dennis Spencer said, recalling when the young business – which at the time had only recently opened – was kicked off the sidewalk. "So we sat outside right out in front here... doing free face painting, giving away freezepops and cold water – we had juices and punches and stuff down here – and let people use the restroom in a nice air-conditioned environment. And we were told to cease and desist, that we were not allowed to do that."

But despite its rocky start, this literally-underground studio has flourished, even being labeled by the Ann Arbor City of Commerce as an entertainment destination. Spencer, who opened the original Paint and Pour in Brighton, decided to expand into Ann



Arbor – the "next great town to be in" – last May, putting the "art" back in "party" for A2's painters and partiers.

The studio, tucked away beneath a stretch of posh downtown shops at Main and Liberty, could be viewed as a creative alternative for both artists jaded by uptight classes and merrymakers bored with club-

bing or seedy bars. While the venue does not serve alcohol, Paint and Pour encourages its participants to bring in their own beverages (boozy or not) and snacks. Events are spiced with humor ranging from kid-friendly to bawdy, depending on the audience.

"It's an atmosphere that inspires people to be creative, to get a little loose," Spencer said.

But calling the studio a nightlife attraction hardly does it justice. Spencer prides himself on offering a first-rate painting class with hand-selected

brushes and top-quality canvases. Participants are armed with only the three primary colors, and are encouraged to mix their own hues.

"We give them the full experience of art," Spencer said. "They get to come in and not only create their own version of whatever it is we're painting that night – and they get entertained the whole time through it by the instructors, and then we do music during break time – but they also get to learn something about art. Maybe it's the style, maybe it's the artists that we've taken inspiration from – Matisse or Picasso or whatever – then they get to create own colors."

"Artists in training" are welcome to attend weekly pizza-fueled children's classes, and several other specialty classes are offered from time to time. Valentine's Day saw a successful couple's painting event, and those with furry family members may be interested in the popular "Paint Your Pet."

Spencer describes Paint and Pour as a community-oriented business, participating in many fundraisers, visiting senior homes and donating artwork to local schools. He also prides himself on creating rewarding jobs for local artists. The tiny-but-cozy studio is lined ceiling-to-floor with colorful, whimsical works by Paint and Pour's artist employees, such as studio manager and event coordinator Kelly Papcun.

see PAINT & POUR, page 11

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## St. Francis of Assisi PARISH

A PROUD SUPPORTER OF GROUNDCOVER NEWS

"We should stand in awe of the burdens the poor have to carry, rather than standing in judgment of how they carry them."

- Fr. Greg Boyle

### Mass Schedule

**Saturday**

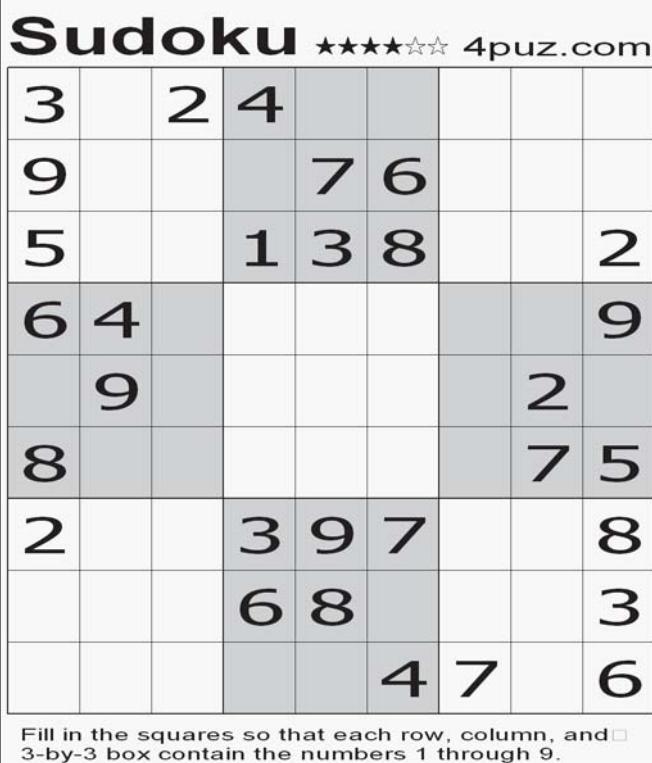
5:00 p.m.

**Sunday**

7:00 a.m. 8:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m. & 5:00 p.m.

St Francis of Assisi Parish  
2250 East Stadium Blvd.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
(734) 769-2550  
www.stfrancisa2.com

## PUZZLES



## Cryptoquote

HTZPMY LMAZTZQZ MX  
QDW JAQLTRJQTMA MX  
LMAZWCEWALWZ.

— AMKYJA LMEZTAZ

Clue: O = 1

## Groundcover Vendor Code

While Groundcover News is a nonprofit organization and newspaper vendors are considered contracted self-employers, we still have expectations of how vendors should conduct themselves while selling and representing the paper.

The following list is our Vendor Code of Conduct, which every vendor reads and signs before receiving a badge and papers. We request that if you discover a vendor violating any tenets of the Code, please contact us and provide as many details as possible. Our paper and our vendors should be positively impacting our County.

*All vendors must agree to the following code of conduct:*

- Groundcover News will be distributed for a voluntary donation of \$1. I agree not to ask for more than a dollar or solicit donations by any other means.
- I will only sell current issues of Groundcover News.
- I agree not to sell additional goods or products when selling the paper or to panhandle, including panhandling with only one paper.
- I will wear and display my badge when selling papers.
- I will only purchase the paper from Groundcover News Staff and will not sell to or buy papers from other Groundcov-

er News vendors, especially vendors who have been suspended or terminated.

- I agree to treat all customers, staff and other vendors respectfully. I will not “hard sell,” threaten, harass or pressure customers, staff, or other vendors verbally or physically.
- I will not sell Groundcover News under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- I understand that I am not a legal employee of Groundcover News but a contracted worker responsible for my own well-being and income.
- I understand that my badge is property of Groundcover News and will not deface it. I will present my badge when purchasing the papers.
- I agree to stay off private property when selling Groundcover News.
- I understand to refrain from selling on public buses, federal property or stores unless there is permission from the owner.
- I agree to stay at least one block away from another vendor. I will also abide by the Vendor corner policy.

If you see any Groundcover News vendors not abiding by the code of conduct, please report the activity to:  
[contact@groundcovernews.com](mailto:contact@groundcovernews.com)  
 734-972-0926

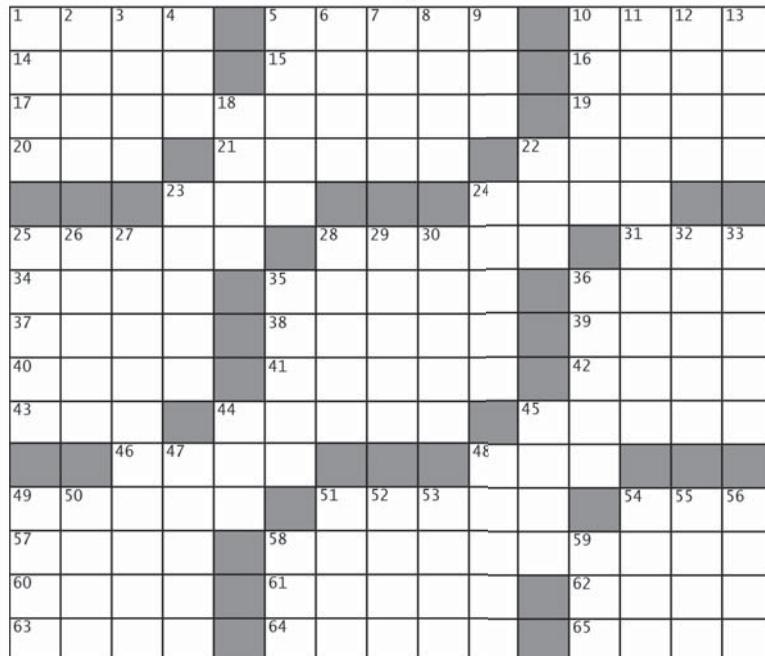
## ACROSS

1. Mythical beings
5. Perennial plant
10. Fraud
14. Cookie brand
15. Audibly
16. Drifter
17. Dick Smothers's instrument
19. European capital
20. Scribe's need
21. Actor Ryan
22. Celebrated
23. Young one
24. Eatery
25. Item of value
28. Jewel
31. Crow's cry
34. \_\_\_\_\_ Window, Alfred Hitchcock movie
35. Connective tissue
36. 2012 Ben Affleck movie
37. Winged hunters
38. Stranger in a strange land
39. Virtual diadem
40. Bit of popular culture
41. Adored ones
42. Saw
43. Commotion
44. Valleys
45. Endures
46. Negative votes
48. Supplied
49. Hot water
51. Ancient Hindu deity
54. Soccer star Hamm
57. Moray and electric
58. False clue
60. Bamako is its capital
61. Mythical being
62. Vocal range
63. Investment accounts (abbr.)
64. Defeats
65. Thrash

## DOWN

1. Asian desert
2. North African port city
3. Place to write
4. Distress call (abbr.)
5. Ghost
6. Obsolete (obsolete)
7. Soft drink
8. Eighteenth century inventor Jethro
9. Fruit drink
10. Where a ship could run aground
11. Outer space radiation
12. Adept
13. Emotional state
18. Bottom part
22. Hat
23. Succinct
24. Mornings
25. Odor
26. Attached buttons
27. Infectious bacteria
28. Diacritical mark
29. Vidalia
30. Skins
32. Shoe part
33. \_\_\_\_\_ Hole Oceanographic Institution

## Something's fishy



35. Goes by boat
36. In front
44. Jewel
45. Television producer Norman
47. Britpop band
48. Astaire and Gwynne
49. Half (prefix)
50. Lachrymal secretion
51. Just enough
52. Opinion
53. \_\_\_\_\_ '70s Show"
54. Grinding device
55. \_\_\_\_\_ the Wild, 2007 Sean Penn film
56. Excited
58. \_\_\_\_\_ Roy, Sir Walter Scott novel
59. British military group (abbr.)

Puzzle by Jeff Richmond



## Bethlehem United Church of Christ

423 S. Fourth Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48104

(between William and Packard)

(734) 665-6149

Bethlehem Church is the home of the Ground Cover office.

## Sundays:

8:30 am and 10:00 am - Worship Services

10:00 am - Summer Sunday School

11:15 am - Fellowship Time

## Upcoming Events:

July Pretzel sales take a summer break

July 16-19 Art Fair parking in church lot

July 29 German Pretzels sales RESUME

[www.bethlehem-ucc.org](http://www.bethlehem-ucc.org)

[www.facebook.com/bethlehemuccA2](http://www.facebook.com/bethlehemuccA2)

[www.pinterest.com/bethlehemuccA2](http://www.pinterest.com/bethlehemuccA2)

[www.youtube.com/user/BethlehemChurchA2](http://www.youtube.com/user/BethlehemChurchA2)

## An open letter to a dear friend currently using heroin

by Kelsey Horne  
Groundcover Contributor

It's difficult to see you grow increasingly inward and immediate. I remember you as wintry nights of reckless, shivering, haphazard, and sparkling connections. As a wry smile with bright eyes after delivering an absurd line with brilliant dryness. I remember your mind when it was emotionally free of any negative judgment, when it was infinite, open, and sympathetic; as an upright corner of humanizing anxiety. I can still remember your folk-punk backtracked laugh as we drank warm beer on an unfurnished apartment floor. I remember you as an outcast with substance; for the first time in my life I felt I had found one other than me.

I guess your addiction started long before you started using heroin, and even before your daily cannabis habit. Preceding both of these things was an addiction to numbness and comfort. Before you started using, either you didn't have much of an opinion on anything, or you kept it to yourself out of insecurity. But now you are ingrained with the false-confidence of the poppy seed. For the first time in your life you aren't anxious, which I guess is good, but there is a price. Anxiety is simply ignored awareness, and now, the lack of anxiety equates to a lack of self-evaluation.

You're actually becoming quite cruel without anxiety, which hurts, because more than any other friend of mine, D., I've tried for you. When Corrine dumped you, I made you a week's worth of food and listened to you and cuddled with you even though it was sort of weird. So when you go on your benders and accuse me of being emotionally callous (if only my life were so easy) or maliciously manipulative, it hurts, okay? Not only is it painful, but it's also rooted in frustratingly bad logic. Is the purging of anxiety really worth the purging of meaningful relationships? Rather than drowning out the Anxiety, you should try listening to it. Maybe

you should try to grow from negative personal realizations rather than ignoring them and remaining myopic.

Without self-awareness, your arguments are results of logical lapses and do not yield to order. How can you honestly submit that the people who care about you are at fault when they worry about your drug use? No, D. We're deeply intertwined social creatures who rely on others for basic survival. It is genetically advantageous to consider those who help you survive as an extension of yourself, so that you can protect them, and care for them, and thus lengthen your own lifespan. Although we, as a society, no longer need each other directly for sustainability, our social order still very much aligns itself with the vestigial notion that we do. Disregarding empathy is emotionally destructive as well as sociologically invalid. You're hurting the people you love and that is not their fault but, in fact, very definitely yours.

I understand that, comparatively, heroin use is on par with driving a taxi for a living in terms of fatality, so I'll disregard the likelihood of your death as one of my main concerns as long as you promise to never forget that what you're doing is very dangerous. Don't forget that tolerance depletes quickly. If you're ever drying out for a few days (be it by choice or by force), remember to adjust your dosage accordingly.

What I'm more concerned with is the nature of the drug itself. In both of our pasts, yours much more than mine, there is a fair amount of experimentation with mind-altering substances. I view these experiences as potentially positive, as they give people the opportunity to observe their thought processes from a different perspective. But where heroin differs from some others is that it offers no cognitive observation, or ego-separation. Heroin is purely escapism. Heroin is ego. Because of this, I'm much more worried about your spirit than your mortality. Now it is possible for you to feel the elation of

vulnerability and accomplishment without ever having worked toward either. You are growing ostensibly stronger off of the things that will only make you weaker: isolation and inactivity. If you were to pull your mental energy away from your own thoughts, and direct it toward making others happy, I'm sure you would feel a lot happier. If you were to acknowledge the wonderful things in your life, and how much the people around you care about you, you would no longer be able to be numb enough to shut yourself off from the world. Be gracious, D.

I remember when we shared the same level of neurosis. We would share everything with each other, and help each other smooth out bumps in our respective cognitive thought processes. But now that you have heroin, and the escapist mindset that comes along with it, it seems like your solution to every problem I vocalize is "you think too much." It's dismissive. It's not a valid suggestion. Friends help each other. You don't help me with anything now. You don't even ask me how I am, except when you're doing so as an excuse to talk about how depressing or incredible your life is, depending on if you have enough money to use that week or not.

Worst of all, you're just sort-of boring now, and I know that would have bothered you before. You told me I shouldn't worry about you, and when I entertained the idea of doing just that, I realized that worry is almost all we have anymore. When we hang out you hardly even talk. The things you talk about are all textbook examples of mental instability, and they're vapid ones, at that. You rant endlessly about your successful love life and shush me when I talk about my romantic struggles. You've become uninteresting and selfish.

I don't want to make this about me. I don't want to think about you actively deciding to choose Heroin over me because it makes me feel very lonely. I'm struggling with how to communicate that there is so much you are missing out on. I'd like to think I'm one of those things, but even if I'm not, there's a whole world you haven't seen, trains you haven't hopped, emotional universes you have not traversed, ideas you want to fight, and music you want to make. You can't do any of that in a doped-out haze; at least not in the way you imagined for yourself. You're letting them make you weak. Please stop, D. I want my best friend back. I love you.

Please. I love you.

## TEST FOR HIV TO KNOW FOR SURE IF YOU HAVE BEEN EXPOSED

### Did You Know HIV:

- Affects all ages, backgrounds
- Spread by anal, oral, vaginal sex and sharing drug injection equipment
- May or may not cause symptoms



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## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

The newly-installed solar electric array on north campus is now generating controversy. Our current energy system is large and well-funded. Naturally-driven energy has long been irrationally opposed and must be protected from all dishonest criticism.

Sincerely,  
Paul Lambert

Dear Editor,

Many communities in America are now jailing people who can't pay judgments and court costs levied against them. Debtors' prisons were one injustice provoking the American Revolution, and should not now be condoned to balance governing budgets.

Sincerely,  
Paul Lambert

## Of blueprints and warnings: utopian and dystopian novels (Part 1 of 3)

by Karen L. Totten  
Groundcover Contributor

Speculating about what our fair city of Ann Arbor might look like in 25 or 50 years – flying cars? Solar rooftops or sidewalks? Gardens instead of lawns everywhere? – is more than idle thought or a way to pass the hours when you have time on your hands.

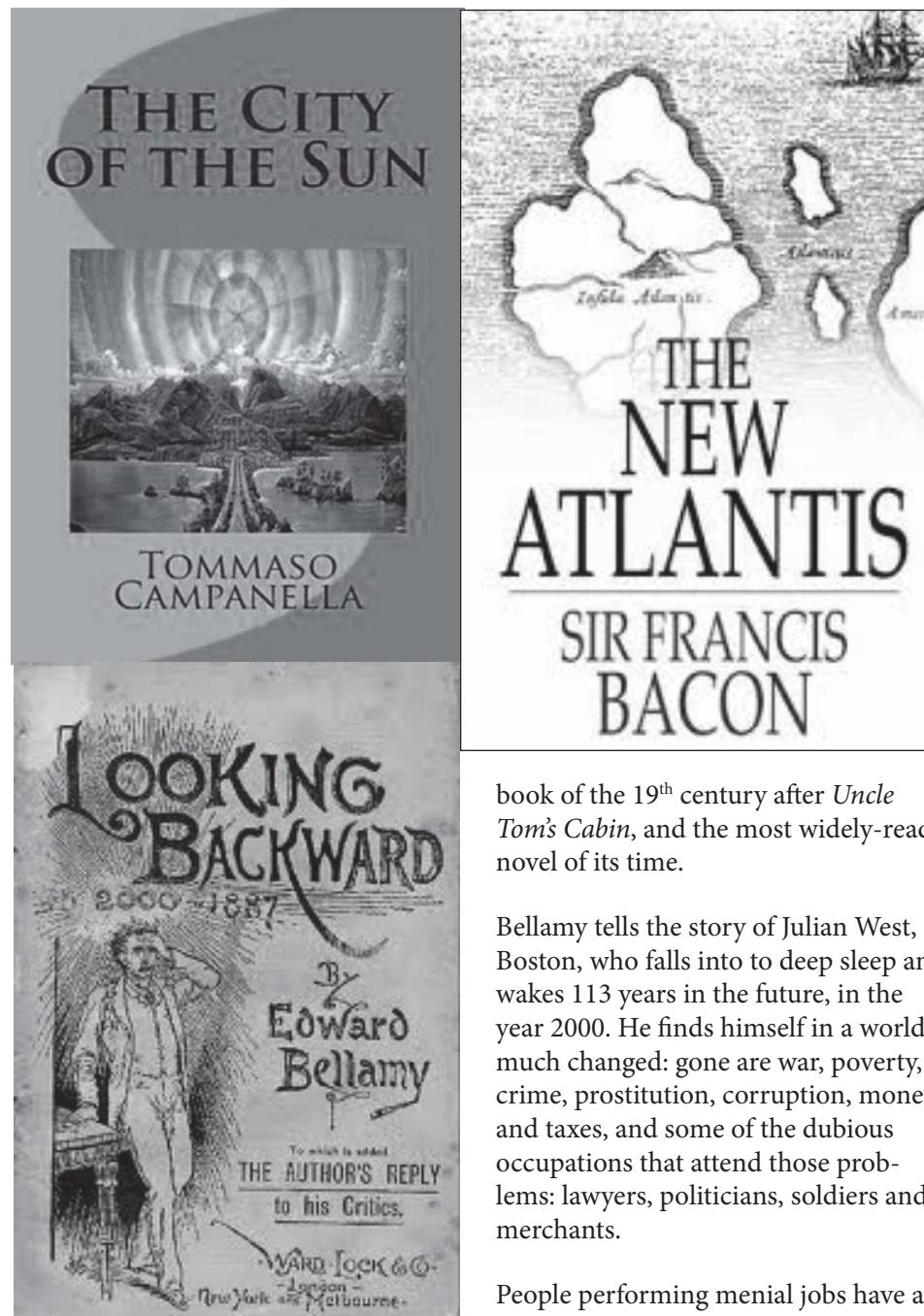
That slogan from the film *Field of Dreams*, “if you build it, they will come,” is partially correct, but ignores the fact that before one can build, one must imagine. The future begins in our imaginations and as Adrienne Maree Brown says, it can shape change. To build a happy, kind, and peaceful future requires being able to bring inspired thought to bear on the process of creating possibilities.

And imagination is what informs the utopian novel.

Writers of classic utopian works present a festival of possible futures; such speculating began ages ago, as with Plato and his view of an ideal Republic. Each author attempts to bring into words his or her personal vision of tomorrow, examining current problems and then proposing changes to everything – from laws to religion to education to poverty to work ethics – in order to bring about the ideal society. Thomas More, back in 1516, published *Utopia* a novel in Latin in which he detailed political, social and religious customs of an island community. In fact, More coined the term “utopia” from Greek roots – it literally means “no place”; a perfect world always out-of-reach. Considered the first fiction piece of its genre, the novel depicts a land where no one owns private property, no one locks the doors, and hospitals are free to all. (Even then, they were thinking of universal health care.) Food is stored in warehouses and distributed according to need. Agriculture is the most important job, though everyone also learns another skilled trade, such as metalsmithing.

More’s vision, however, was flawed – among other things, slavery existed in More’s utopia (slaves could be freed for good behavior), and this flaw illustrates a problem found in many utopian works: they are not perfect roadmaps to great societies. Some wrongs persist, sometimes because the writer has a limited ability to create, often because in dealing with thorny issues, other issues arise.

Many more utopian novels followed the first *Utopia*, including Tommaso Cam-



panella's *City of the Sun*, in 1612, and *New Atlantis*, by Francis Bacon in 1627.

In Campanella's work, the city is protected by seven circles of decorated walls, painted to depict many areas of knowledge, maps of the heavens, and theatrical backdrops. All kinds of labor are considered of equal importance; people work four hours a day, and the only thing considered a sin is idleness. Goods are held in common because the citizens believe there is a negative moral and social impact in unequal distribution of food and other necessities.

Not so idyllic, however, is Campanella's method for creating “perfect people” for his utopia. He suggests a “community of wives”; procreation of children operates under strict guidelines and children are born from bloodlines considered propitious. Not very woman-friendly, not to mention hinting a bit of eugenics.

Another very popular classic work of utopian fiction was *Looking Backward* by Edward Bellamy, published in 1888, which became the second-bestselling

book of the 19<sup>th</sup> century after *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, and the most widely-read novel of its time.

Bellamy tells the story of Julian West, of Boston, who falls into a deep sleep and wakes 113 years in the future, in the year 2000. He finds himself in a world much changed: gone are war, poverty, crime, prostitution, corruption, money and taxes, and some of the dubious occupations that attend those problems: lawyers, politicians, soldiers and merchants.

People performing menial jobs have a drastically reduced workday. Employment is voluntary, beginning at age 21 and continuing until 45, when people retire with full benefits. Public kitchens are free. Crime has become a medical issue.

Bellamy is prescient about certain modern developments, such as “credit” cards (which actually function more like debit cards). Citizens are each given equal amounts of credit to spend. Music and sermons are available to homes through cable telephones.

So what could be wrong with this idyllic land? Well, for one thing, only retirees can vote, as they have no vested interest in the outcome of elections. So it is not really a fully democratic society. And, as one commentator said, the society evolved as a response to capitalistic monopolies expanding so much that eventually one corporation ran the whole country. If this were actually to happen, many different realities could evolve, depending on which company came out on top. Coca-Cola Land? Walmart World? No thanks.

More contemporary is the popular 1975 work *Ecotopia*, by Ernest Callenbach. Set in 1997, in what were once Oregon, Washington, and northern California before breaking away to form a new country in 1980, Callenbach tells, through diary entries and reports from journalist William Weston, the story of a place where citizens seek “balance between themselves and nature.”

Ecotopians were tired of bad air, chemically-processed food and crazy advertisements. They felt that the only path to self-preservation was to become political and divorce themselves from the United States.

Their government is decentralized, the economy is generally employee-owned and controlled. The community promotes green building construction, the people enjoy universal medical care and urban farming. As a culture, the country values equality for women, creativity and protection and restoration of natural systems.

Problems with Callenbach's vision, however, take unusual forms. By choice, many people live in ethnically separate regions. Many blacks have chosen to live together around San Francisco, for example. In addition, there are war games that some people choose to participate in, using real weapons and resulting in some injuries. Worst of all, WMD are hidden in major centers of the U.S. population to preempt attempts to reunite the region with America. Callenbach himself stated that Ecotopia was not a true utopia, as it was imperfect and in process.

That process of creating a more just and humane world is one fraught with some uncertainty. After all, while the process might begin with a grand idea, the implementation of that idea needs political will to carry it forward and keep it from being compromised by human nature and the sometimes the selfish needs of others.

In the continuation of this piece (in future issues of *Groundcover*), I will offer up some *dystopian* novel examples of what could go wrong if humankind is not vigilant in its focus on creating a better world. War emerges as a problem that is difficult to resolve. In our real, non-fictional world, it will take great collective action and heart to defeat its grasp on society. Perhaps uniting around a positive, utopian vision might bring about harmony. “It is the joyful,” a friend of mine once said, “who keep peace.”

## Teaching Empathy

by Jasmine B.  
Ozone House Contributor

Nothing is perfect. Everyone knows that. Ideally, there should be a 100 percent graduation rate in every school system across the nation. But, since this obviously isn't the case, we should take a minute to look at what's holding our young people back from completing high school and earning a diploma on time.

Of course, the easy answers are drugs, the internet, television, and that darn Bieber kid setting a bad example. Yet, to be honest, that's not what's holding some of us back at all.

No one can describe it better than J.D. Salinger in my favorite novel, *The Catcher in the Rye*. Holden Caulfield, who is getting kicked out of yet another school for poor grades, is getting lectured by his professor, who describes life as a game. Holden replies, "Game my ass, some game. If you get on the side where all of the hot-shots are, then it's a game, all right-I'll admit that. But, if you get on the other side, where there aren't any hot-shots, then what's a game about it? Nothing. No game."

Being born into an unfortunate situation such as homelessness or an unstable home can take a toll on academic performance. Too many times, teachers

have told their students, "You're smart, but I don't understand why you don't complete assignments," or "I don't accept late work, no excuses."

Our system is built with a lack of understanding. Until the very minute a young person graduates and moves on to college, they have no control over most aspects of their own lives. Teachers expect students to turn in assignments on time - which is reasonable. But when students spend nine months out of the year with their teachers, the teachers should know what to expect of them. When they begin to slip up, shouldn't the teachers be a little bit concerned and make an effort to figure out what has gone wrong? Graduation should be dependent on hard work, not on whether a person can tolerate extreme circumstances.

If a teacher notices a fall in academic performance, alerting someone who can help, or contacting the individual themselves, can make a great impact. Increasing the graduation rate doesn't start with rigorous programs, longer classes, or more homework. It starts with identifying factors separate from school, recognizing them, and working with them towards success. High school is the first step to success, and helping students push past barriers should be a part of their learning experience.

## Eric Cantor's Congressional loss

continued from page 4

It worked!! The representative-elect beat the Majority Leader by 10 points, a stunning reversal of what the polls were predicting. How did they all get it this wrong? It could be because of the "undecided" vote going to Brat or just voters changing their minds in the poll booths.

Now for the second part of the problems caused by the loss. It gets a lot worse for the more moderate Republican Congressional establishment. This sends a message to them that they have to "stop playing ball" with the Democrats in any way, shape, or form, or even think of any kind of progressive legislation. Because if they do, it could be another "Cantor" for them when primary time comes around.

This creates a dilemma for elected

## Paint and Pour

continued from page 7

"It's basically the happiest place on Earth," Papcun said, describing how her co-workers often "come in on their off-days" and work on ongoing projects.

But it's the customers who remain top priority at Paint and Pour. Papcun can easily recall her favorite memory.

"One of my favorite experiences was - I didn't know this at the time, but afterwards - we were contacted by a customer who said, 'I just wanted you to know my mom's been going through chemo and has had cancer for the past year, and this is the first time I've seen her smile almost a year,'" Papcun said. "And that was one of the coolest compliments you could ever receive."

According to Spencer, the woman wished to attend Paint and Pour as her final activity before going into the hospital for a major surgery.

The studio's charm comes from its somehow-seamless fusion of servitude and sauciness. Even after last year's art

Republicans. They now think they must move to ever-more-too-conservative, far-right positions in order to win primaries and be nominated again. If they do that, then they run the risk of not being able to appeal to the general electorate, especially the independents.

It now appears that the chances of this Congress voting in favor of any socially-progressive legislation are nil. They probably they won't vote favorably on anything at all, except if a national emergency arises. If you thought that the last Congressional session was a "do nothing" session, "you ain't seen anything yet."

So, now you know why the loss of one primary sent shock waves through the business world and Washington, D.C. Like the saying goes, "Elections have consequences."

fair incident, Paint and Pour plans to dip its toe into the excitement of the Ann Arbor Street Art Fair and provide comfort for the community. Fairgoers will be allowed to relax in the studio, enjoy an open painting session for a discounted price, and be treated to refreshments.

"That's how we started here in Ann Arbor - with a little bit of an attitude, a little bit of a reputation, but people come to know us and love us, I think," Spencer said, reflecting on the previous year's debacle. "But what they love is not Paint and Pour. They love the experience that they get when they come here."

Paint and Pour is located at 220 Main Street, under Elmo's Main Street T-Shirts. Classes are usually held seven days a week and typically during the evening. A two-hour adult class costs \$35, while a three-hour class is \$45. All materials are included with the ticket purchase, and artists may take home their creations.

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At the Y, we exist to strengthen community. Together with people like you, we nurture the potential of kids, help people improve their health, and provide opportunities to support our neighbors. So join our cause. And create meaningful change not just for your family, but also for your community.



## Cryptoquote Solution

**Wisdom consists of the anticipation of consequences.**

— Norman Cousins

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## Vietnamese noodle salad with chicken

(A close-but-not-totally-authentic version of Bún!)

by Lisa Sonnenburg  
Groundcover Contributor

### Sauce

½ cup water  
¼ cup fish sauce  
3 tbsp lime juice  
2 tbsp unseasoned rice vinegar  
2 tbsp sugar  
1 clove garlic, crushed or minced  
1 chili pepper, minced  
1 tbsp shredded carrot

Mix all ingredients together until sugar is dissolved. Let sit for 30 minutes.

### Salad

2 chicken breasts, thinly sliced  
3 green onions, sliced  
2 gloves garlic, minced  
2 chili peppers, minced  
2 tsp sugar  
2 tbsp fish sauce  
1 tbsp lime juice  
Salt and pepper to taste  
3 medium carrots, grated or cut into thin strips  
1 8-oz. package of rice vermicelli  
2 tbsp oil

½ head of lettuce, shredded

½ cucumber, seeded and cut into thin strips

½ bunch of cilantro

¼ cup unsalted peanuts, chopped

In a large bowl, mix together chicken, green onion, garlic, peppers, sugar, fish sauce, lime juice, salt and pepper. Marinate for 15-30 minutes (you can do this right after making the sauce, so both will be ready at the same time).

Boil water (either in a pot or kettle). Place vermicelli in a heatproof bowl, and pour boiling water over the noodles. Let stand for 5-8 minutes or until softened through. Drain and rinse in cold water.

Heat oil in a frying pan or wok over

medium-high heat. Stir-fry chicken until thoroughly cooked. Remove from heat.

In separate deep serving bowls, put half of the lettuce and carrots into each one. Divide noodles equally and place on top of vegetables. Divide chicken and place on top of noodles. Divide cucumbers, cilantro and peanuts and place on top.

Pour sauce over entire bowl. Enjoy!

(You can experiment with different vegetables – use spinach instead of lettuce, or bell peppers instead of carrots. You can also use different meat – pork is traditional, but I have also used beef and tofu! You can also omit the chili peppers for a mild version.)

Serves 2.



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